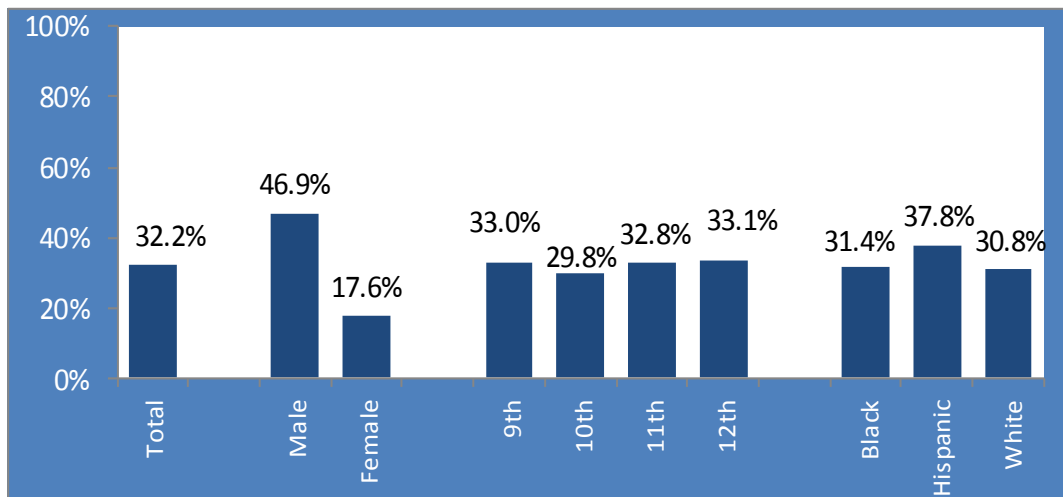


## North Carolina Problem Gambling Program

For more information contact the N. C. Department of Health and Human Services,  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services

### 2011 North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Figure 1. 2011 YRBS: Demographics of N.C. High School Students Who Gambled



#### Highlights: Demographics of Those Who Gambled

- Among high school students in North Carolina, 32.2% reported gambling in the past year. (See Figure 1 above.)
- More male students gambled than did females (46.9% compared to 17.6%, respectively).
- The proportion of students who gambled by grade level was fairly stable from 9th to 12th grade. Twelfth graders had the highest proportion (33.1%), followed by ninth graders (33.0%) with tenth and eleventh graders having only slightly lower proportions of gambling (29.8% and 32.8% respectively).
- A higher proportion of Hispanic/Latino high school students (37.8%) reported gambling than did Black (31.4%) or White high school students (30.8%).

Almost one-third of high school students reported gambling during the past year with all grade levels (9th—12th) being almost equally likely to have gambled.

#### Highlights: Gambling Behavior Among High School Students in N.C.

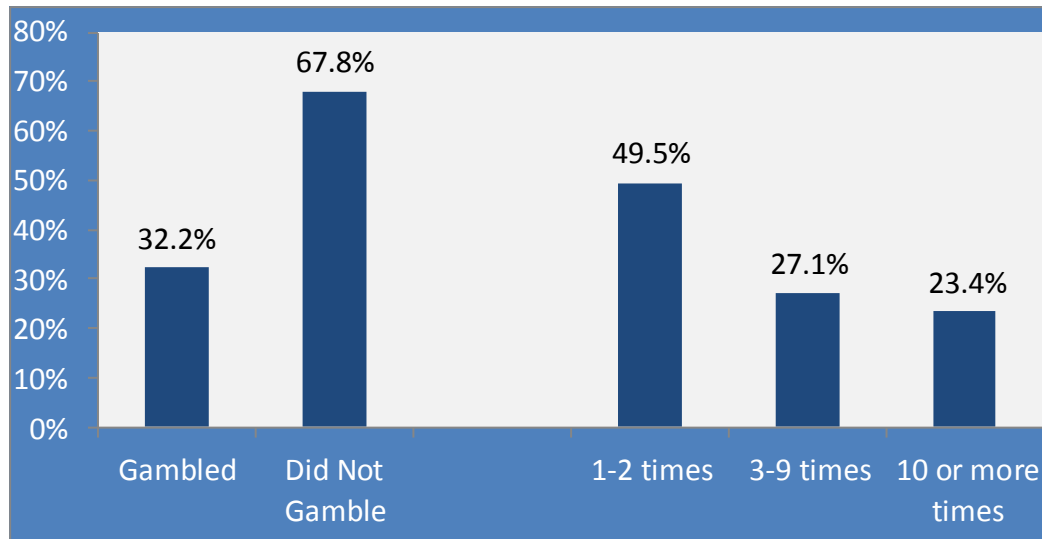
Figure 2 on the following page, examines the number of times high school students gambled during the 12 months prior to the survey.

- Of those students who gambled, almost half (49.5%) gambled 1 to 2 times during the past 12 months.
- About one-fourth of students who gambled reported gambling 3 to 9 times during the past year (27.1%).
- Almost one-fourth (23.4%) of student gamblers reported gambling ten or more times in the twelve months preceding the survey.



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**Figure 2. 2011 YRBS: Gambling Behavior of High School Students in N.C.**



### Highlights: Violence and Victimization, Gamblers versus Non-Gamblers

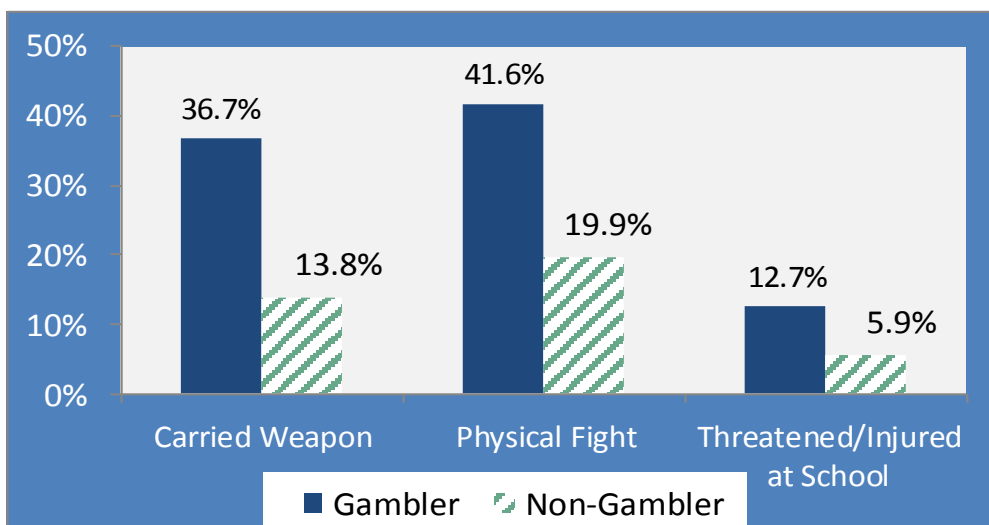
Student gamblers were more likely than non-gambling students to have been the perpetrators and victims of violence.

- Student gamblers were two and a half times more likely to carry a weapon than non-gamblers (36.7% versus 13.8%). (See Figure 3 below)
- Students who gambled were twice as likely to be involved in a physical fight and to be threat-

ened or injured at school as students who did not gamble (41.6% versus 19.9% and 12.7% versus 5.9%).

Note: The data indicate a correlation between gambling and violence/victimization but do not mean that gambling causes it.

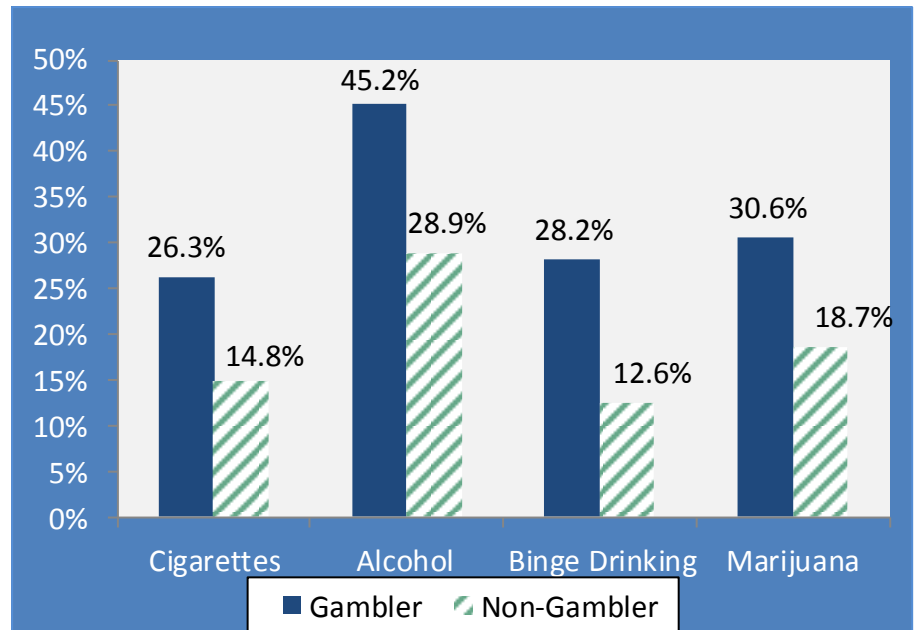
**Figure 3. 2011 YRBS: Violence and Victimization Among High School Students in N.C.**



## 2011 YRBS: 30 Day Substance Use Among High School Students in N.C., Gamblers vs. Non-Gamblers

- Student gamblers were one and a half times more likely to have smoked cigarettes and have had one or more alcoholic drinks in the last 30 days as non-gamblers (26.3% versus 14.8% and 45.2% versus 28.9%).
- About 1 in 3 high school students who reported gambling also reported binge drinking in the last 30 days (28.2%).
- Students who gambled were more likely to have used marijuana in the last 30 days than students who did not gamble (30.6% versus 18.7%).

Note: The data presented here indicate that gambling and substance use are correlated but do not indicate a causal relationship.

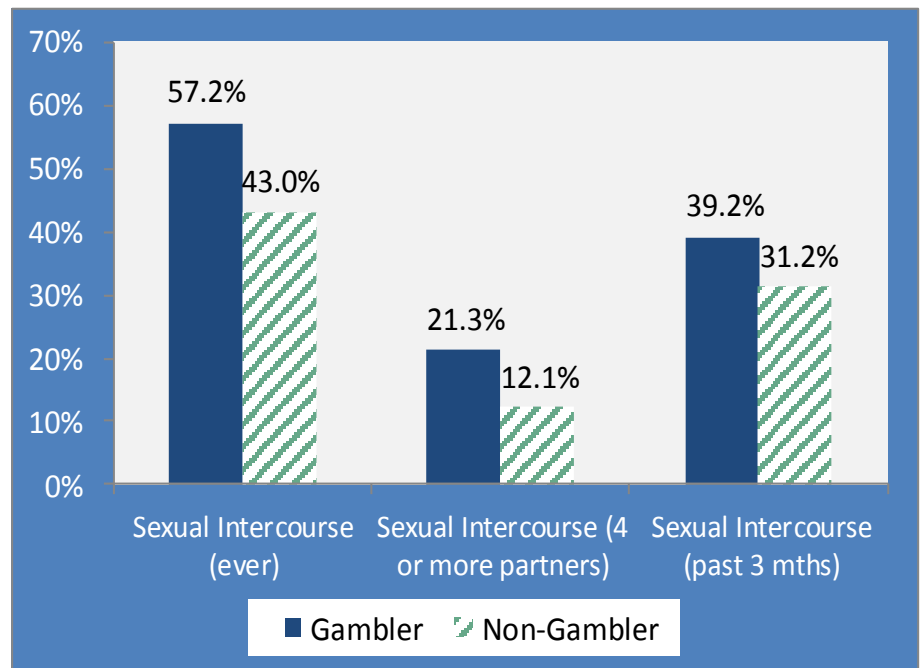


## Sexual Behavior Among High School Students in N.C., Gamblers vs. Non-Gamblers

Student gamblers were more likely to engage in sexual behavior than their non-gambling counterparts.

- Student gamblers were almost one and a half times as likely to have ever engaged in sexual intercourse than non-gambling students (57.2% versus 43.0%).
- A little more than one in five student gamblers reported having 4 or more sexual partners while one in eight non-gambling students reported such activity.

Almost 4 in 10 students who gambled reported having sexual intercourse in the past 3 months while 3 in 10 non-gamblers reported such behavior.



Note: The data presented here indicate that gambling and sexual behavior are correlated but do not indicate a causal relationship.

## Summary of Behavioral Risk Factors Among N. C. High School Students Who Gambled

High school students who gambled were:

- two and a half times more likely to carry a weapon;
- twice as likely to be involved in a physical fight and to be threatened or injured on school property;
- one and a half times more likely to smoke cigarettes and have had an alcoholic drink in the past 30 days; and
- one and a half times more likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse than their non-gambling counterparts.

### Survey Methodology

The 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was conducted during the spring of 2011. A total of 2,278 students from 33 public high schools in North Carolina responded to the survey. The school response rate was 83%, the student

response rate was 85%, and the overall response rate was 70%. The results are representative of all public high school students in grades 9 through 12 in North Carolina.

The YRBS focuses on the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among youth. The areas of focus are the following:

- Injury/violence
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol and drug use
- Sexual behaviors
- Dietary behaviors
- Physical activity

### Gambling Question in the 2011 YRBS

In 2011, the N.C. Problem Gambling Program was able to add a question to the YRBS. The question added to the survey is the following:

During the past 12 months, how many times have you gambled on a sports team, gambled when playing cards or when playing a dice game, played the lottery or scratch off tickets, gambled on the internet, or bet on a game of

personal skill such as pool or video game?

- 0 times
- 1 or 2 times
- 3 to 9 times
- 10 to 19 times
- 20 to 39 times
- 40 or more times

For further information about the North Carolina Problem Gambling Program, please contact:

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or Jon Rayle, LCSW at (919) 733-0696.